

# HARDSHIP STRIKES VETERAN OF TWO WARS



**HIT BY HARDSHIP** . . . Ex-sergeant Don Townsend lies critically injured today following an accident Thursday morning that topped a list of tough luck events that have dogged the two-war veteran for the past 11 months. His wife, whose picture can be seen on the lid of the trunk, two weeks ago gave birth to a 2-pound, 6-ounce baby who is still in an incubator at another hospital.

Tragedy and hardship struck again this week at the home of Don Townsend, young veteran of two wars, his youthful wife and their two children.

Here's what has happened to the Townsends since last September:

1. While serving in Japan with the 575th Combat Engineers Don, then a master sergeant, tripped over a communication wire during a night maneuver and fell 42 feet down an embankment fracturing his right leg and driving it into the hip socket, causing multiple fractures of the pelvis.

2. Two weeks after he was discharged in July he went to work for the Thompson Glass Co. in Los Angeles. Two weeks after he went to work his plant was shut down by the recent nationwide glassmakers' strike.

3. On July 16 his wife gave birth three months prematurely to a 2-pound, 6-ounce baby boy.

4. The child was placed under special care and in an oxygenated incubator, and to date the hospital bill amounts to \$631, plus \$50 each week the baby remains in the hospital.

5. Tragedy struck hardest at 1 a.m. Thursday morning as the 27-year-old World War II and Korean War veteran came home from a union meeting. His auto was riddled by another car at Carson St. and Avalon Blvd. He is in the Harbor General Hospital on the critical list with multiple fractures of his right leg, cuts and bruises of his "bad" leg and head injuries.

"I don't know what to do," said the pretty blond wife of the injured man. "We just bought a house. Then Don was out of work for two weeks. Now the car is wrecked and we can't sell that. The baby hospital wants money. We've already given them \$100 but, of course, it will take a lot more than that. And now Don is so terribly ill."

Their 1949 Oldsmobile, now badly smashed, they had intended to sell to pay part of the hospital bill.

The couple only recently put a small down payment on a new house at 2931 Brighton Ave.

California Highway Patrol officers gave this account of Thursday's accident, Townsend was rammed broadside when an auto being driven by Samuel Wellditch of Burbank ran a red light. The ex-National Guardsman was thrown from his car, run over by the wheel, and then tumbled and rolled 35 feet from where he was thrown from the car.

The American Red Cross has promised as many pints of blood as will be needed, according to Dick Felker, chairman of the Torrance Chapter of the Red Cross.

Neighbors of the youthful couple are rallying to their aid. They plan a food sale or a social event of some kind in hopes of raising money to pay the around-the-clock special nurses required while he is on the critical list. His condition is too serious to allow him to be transferred to a veterans hospital, according to a report out of the Harbor General Hospital.

Topping things off, Vicky Lynn, the couple's two-year-old daughter, has the whooping cough. The ex-sergeant, who has lived in Torrance for 25 of his 27 years, has twice answered his nation's call to arms. He served three years overseas during World War II, taking part in the Lingayen Gulf invasion as well as seeing action at Munda, Guadalcanal and a score of other South Pacific islands, while attached to the 30th Military Police Battalion.

He was sent overseas again in 1951 when the 40th Infantry Division of the California National Guard was reactivated, sent to Camp Cooke and later to Japan and Korea.

His mother, Mrs. Billie Haslings, lives at 2203 Gramercy Ave.

Published every Sunday and Thursday morning

## TORRANCE HERALD

—and 8 Companion Newspapers, Total Combined Circulation—22,868



Sunday and Thursday Home Delivered by Carrier 20 Cents Per Month

38th Year—No. 52 TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 1952 PHONE TORRANCE 444 12 8 PAGES

# Attack Victim Loses Sight, Sues for \$750,000 Damages

## Manager Blinded In Theater Ruckus

A local theater manager who is now blind in both eyes as a result of being struck in the face while wearing glasses, filed a \$750,000 lawsuit Friday against his 15-year-old assailant, according to the records of the Long Beach Superior Court.

Blinded is Jack McDonald Wren, 28-year-old manager of the Stadium Theater who was beaten on July 25 as he attempted to quiet a youth who was causing a disturbance in the theater, the lawsuit claims.

The suit, filed by Attorney Boris Woolley, charges that Bruce Jensen, the youth, "did wrongfully violate and assault the plaintiff, and did beat him about the head, face and eyes." Woolley claims that Wren, who lives at 17220 Crenshaw Blvd., was wearing glasses at the time the youth struck him and was so injured by the broken lens being driven into his eyes, that he has suffered the loss of his eyesight.

Besides Wren, Woolley names Mrs. Jean Wren, the injured man's wife as a co-plaintiff. His wife is the daughter of the owners of the Lovelady Hardware Store here. She is employed as a clerk in the Torrance Fire Department.

The couple were married two months ago Friday.

The attorney has named Jensen's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jensen, as co-defendants.

Several operations by a Los Angeles leading eye specialist have failed to restore the theater manager's sight.

The suit asks for \$500,000 general damages and \$250,000 punitive or exemplary damages. The amount Wren will ask for special damages has not yet been determined, Woolley stated.



**TO REVERSE TABLES** . . . 21-year-old Jackie Laughery, shown here receiving the Miss United States of America crown from Rosemary LaPlante, star of screen and TV and former Miss America of 1941, will do the honors Aug. 16 when she crowns Shirley White as Miss Torrance of 1952 at the Coronation Ball at the Palos Verdes Country Club.

## Ex-THS Youths Find Girl's Body After Mystery Fall Off PV Cliff



**DAVE SCHOLL** . . . went for help

**Girl Barely Alive When Discovered**

Mystery still surrounds the story of a pretty 18-year-old girl who was found battered and barely alive by two Torrance High School graduates at the bottom of a 170-foot Palos Verdes cliff Thursday evening.

Discovered by Kelvin Figgins, 17, of 1632 Juniper St., and Dave Scholl, 18, of 815 Beech Ave., the girl now is at Harbor General Hospital in serious condition, where she has told a hodgepodge of stories about the fall.

**Barely Conscious**

Figgins said he and Scholl were spearfishing off Resort Point in the Palos Verdes area when he came across the dazed girl, Darlene Shelby Bogardus. She was barely conscious.

"I asked her if she needed help," Figgins reported, "but she asked me only to tell her the time."

Scholl clambered up the steep cliff and called for Palos Verdes Police, who summoned life guards and rushed to the scene.

The girl was found sitting on a piece of driftwood, her right eye swollen shut and deep cuts on her hands and legs. She complained of a pain in her back.

Palos Verdes police sergeant Dick Conroy credits Figgins with saving her life.

"She wouldn't have lasted the night," the officer reported.

He speculated she had lain on the beach unconscious for several hours.

**Lover's Quarrel**

The pretty brunette first told officers that she had had a lover's quarrel with her boy friend, and then apparently fell over the cliff when he drove away, leaving her on the isolated rocky point.

Later, however, she refused to talk about the incident.

"I can't and won't tell you how I fell over the cliff," she reportedly said.

Officers said that falls from lesser distances along the coastline have resulted in death.

Her mother, Mrs. Fern Bogardus, came from her Los Angeles home to be at Darlene's bedside at Harbor General Hospital.



**KELVIN FIGGINS** . . . saved her life

## Finch to Speak At GOP Rally Here Tomorrow

Bob Finch, Republican candidate for Congress from the 17th Congressional District, will explain "Why Ike Needs a Congress" at a meeting to be held at 9 p.m. Monday night in the Torrance High School Auditorium.

To speak also is Lt. Gov. Goodwin Knight who is expected to give a stirring and brief talk in favor of Ike-Nixon and Finch.

The meeting is the second half of a caravan meeting which is to start with a convalescence in El Segundo earlier in the evening.

The meeting here is open to the public, according to Charles Schultz Jr., president of the Republican Club of Torrance, which is sponsoring the gathering.

## Split Week Closes Two Columbia Mills

Dispute over working split schedules shut down the 22-inch and 36-inch rolling mills at Columbia Steel here Saturday as 28 men of the B turn and 30 men of the C turn failed to show up for work.

Workmen on the mills are demanding that their days off be consecutive instead of split and took Saturday off so they would have their two days off together.

A company spokesman said yesterday evening that the workers were expected to return to the mill tomorrow morning, although the same situation may exist next week-end. The company says 12 turns are scheduled on the mill and that number of turns cannot be scheduled without a split week.

"A new grievance committee has been chosen, and it will be given every chance to settle this dispute," an official said.

## Miss U.S. to Crown Queen Shirley White

Miss United States of America will crown Miss Shirley White, Miss Torrance of 1952, at the Coronation Ball to be held at the Palos Verdes Country Club Saturday night, Aug. 16.

Jackie Laughery, awarded the coveted Miss United States title at the recent Miss Universe beauty pageant in Long Beach, will be a special guest of honor at the ball and do the honors as Shirley White accepts the crown for her reign as Miss Torrance.

The 21-year-old redhead represented the state of New York and competed against beauty winners of the other 47 states to win the title of Miss United States of America. She is now under a seven-year contract to Universal International Studios and is being trained at the studios to take important parts in forthcoming pictures.

**Producer To Attend**

Oscar Meinhardt, executive producer of the Miss Universe beauty pageant and executive of Universal will attend the Coronation Ball along with Miss Laughery.

Shirley White was recently selected as Miss Torrance in competition with 14 other local beauties in a contest sponsored by

## More Than 1600 New Homes Due

Submitted to the Planning Commission Wednesday evening were plans and maps for five developments with a total of 1687 homes.

Leading the list with 1309 lots was the Ellinwood Corp., which plans to develop the area between Wateria and Hollywood Riveria.

Other plans submitted included 172 homes for the January Co., now building at Crenshaw 611; the minimum floor area for a development at Emerald and Madrona; 132 homes for James M. Dye, Inc.

32 to committees for study and recommendation.

**Variance Studied**

In other action, the Planning Commission held over for study by a committee a petition submitted by Alma E. Schulz for a variance and conditional permit to establish a wholesale and retail sales outlet for brassware in the former Alma's Bakery at 154 W. Carson St.

The action was taken following a

- Where's the Fire?**
- THURSDAY**
- 11:25 a.m., Hawthorne Ave. and Torrance Blvd., grass fire.
  - 5:30 p.m., 190th St. and Hawthorne Ave., grass fire.
  - 5:47 p.m., Sepulveda Blvd. and Maple Ave., grass fire.
- FRIDAY**
- 10:09 a.m., 174th St. and Glenburn Ave., grass fire.
  - 10:15 a.m., 171st St. and Emmanita Ave., grass fire.
  - 12:52 p.m., Crenshaw Blvd. and Carson St., house fire, slight damage.
  - 1:15 p.m., 174th St. and Crenshaw Blvd., grass fire.
- SATURDAY**
- 12:32 p.m., 177th St. and Arlington Ave., lumber pile fire.

- Cutting Victim Taken To Harbor Hospital**
- Lee Higgins, of 21505 So. Berendo Ave., was taken to Harbor General Hospital late yesterday afternoon with a knife wound in his abdomen and a cut across the throat, according to F&M ambulance service.
- His wife and young daughter accompanied him to the hospital. Sheriff's deputies Earl Snyder and C. Seibert are investigating.
- Power Saws Stolen**
- Six Skillseaws were taken from a construction job at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Crenshaw Blvd., according to a report made to Torrance police. The saws belonged to the Jones and Shanks Construction Co.

(Continued on Page 8)